Vol. III. Numb. 44.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflections on the Plot and Plotters.

From **Saturday** Auguſt the 19th, to **Wednesday** Auguſt the 23d, 1704.

…ry-m.

MAſter *Obſervator*, you muſt now be as good as your Word, in giving us an Account of theſe Plots againſt the Beſt of Queens, the moſt Legal and Beſt Conſtituted Government in the World.

Obſ. If we intend to accompliſh a Cure, we muſt look into the Cauſes of the Diſtemper, and then provide proper Medicines; this is impoſſible for you or I to effect: We may Preſcribe, and give our Opinion of the Diſtemper, but the *State-Doctors* are the Perſons that muſt make up the Doſe, and to them we muſt leave that part. Every one that looks in the Face of the State, may, by its Aſpect, find an Indiſpoſition; but to come to a Knowledge of the Cauſe of that Indiſpoſition, we muſt look nearer, and ſee what unnatural Motions have been in it, what violent Agitations have ſhaken the Frame of the Commonwealth, and have looſen'd the Pegs, or bruiſed the Joynts of the Body Politick.

Without doubt we have had an inteſtine Evil in the Bowels of our Government, when we ſee ſuch noxious Vapours ariſe and affect the Head; and that the care of the *State-Phyſitians* has been ſo miſs, when thoſe Diſtempers have been Encouraged, inſtead of being Corrected.

To come cloſe to the Point, let us examine into the Encouragement given to Plotters, and then we ſhall not wonder that Plots are carried on to cut off the Thread of a Life ſo valuable to this Nation, and the *Proteſtant* Cauſe of *Europe*.

Ever ſince Her Majeſties Happy Acceſſion to the Crown, Her Enemies, the *Papiſts*, *Jacobites*, and *High-Flyers*, have taken all meaſures poſſible to encourage ſuch as are in the Intereſt of St. *Germains*; and by Calumnies, and Falſe Aſperſions, to keep ſuch from Royal Favour, as have been in the Queens Intereſt out of Principle, and who would, if employ'd, have kept the Government on its Natural *Baſis* of the Revolution; from which, if it be once moved, by any retrograde motion, it muſt tumble and fall. Theſe Men, I ſay, were repreſented as Commonwealths-Men, as Enemies to Monarchy and the Royal-Family of *England*; when indeed they were only Enemies to a *French* Government, Wooden-Shoes, and an Arbitrary Power, and to ſuch as would introduce the Pretender to ſet Her Majeſty aſide from Her juſt Right.

The *High-Flyers*, by their High Pretenſions to Loyalty, in all Reigns, have hover'd about the Throne, where, like ſo many *Cattarpillars*, they devour every Green thing, and wither the Boughs, under which the People ought to have Refreſhment. Their Friends, the *Papiſts*, they encourage, by keeping them from Proſecutions by Law, and their Accomplices. The *Jacobites* they encourage by getting them into Offices; and if theſe Men preſide in any Government; can Plots in that Government be accounted wonderful?

The *Papiſts*, ſince Her Majeſties Acceſſion to the Throne, as they were never more Numerous, by vaſt Numbers come from beyond the Seas; ſo they were never more Encouraged. Certainly the Life of no King or Queen could be more Dear to *England*, than is the Life of Her preſent Majeſty; and yet not one Proclamation has been Iſſued, as in former Reigns, to drive the *Papiſts* ten Miles from *London*, according to the Laws made for the Safety of the Sacred Perſons of our Kings and Queens. The *Popiſh* Prieſts are as common in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, as in ſome *Popiſh* Countries; nay, they have the Impudence to come within the Verge of the Court; they Ride up and down the Countries on good Horſes, well Arm'd, and can at any time hold the *Proteſtants* in Deriſion.

In the City of *London* they have their Clubs and Cabals where they meet, and none but *Papiſts* muſt be of their Society, and there they keep a Stock, and Collect Money for unknown Purpoſes; and when I had made a Diſcovery of one of thoſe Clubs, *Robbin Stevens*, the Queens Meſſenger, Solicited with the Secretary of State on their Behalf, and I was Proſecuted for Writing againſt them; and tho' that Fellow, *Stevens*, has been the common Solicitor for *Papiſts*, in our Courts of Juſtice, during this Reign, he is now Armed with more Power than before.

The Encouragement given to the *Nonjurors*, is another Cauſe of Plots and Contrivancies againſt Her Majeſties Perſon and Government. Some Perſons in Authority under Her Majeſty, immediately, upon Her Majeſties happy Acceſſion to the Throne, procured an Addreſs to be Preſented from the *Nonjurant* Clergy of *Scotland*, which Addreſs was afterwards Publiſhed in the *Gazette*. I think the Perſons that procured the Preſentment of the ſaid Addreſs, are Enemies to the Queen and Government, and ought to be accountable to the Nation for an Action which has done ſuch viſible Miſchief to Her Majeſty and Government.

For by this means the *Nonjurors*, Her Majeſties Sworn Enemies, have been encouraged in all parts of the Kingdom. They keep Seditious Clubs and Conventicles throughout the Countries, in Defiance of Her Majeſties Authority, the Laws of the Realm, and to the putting of Her Majeſties Liege People in Bodily Fear. At *Norwich* there is a Conventicle of ſome Hundreds, where they conſtantly Aſſemble, and of which I have given Notice to the Miniſtry, with the Papers I received on that Account, ſince which I have received other Papers relating to the ſame; as alſo Accounts of the ſame Nature from other parts of the Kingdom; and is it any wonder then that we have Plots, when the Enemies of

the

the Government can Assemble in a Riotous manner without any Notice taken of them?

Country-m. What fine Justices of the Peace then have we? I hope they are not of the same Kidney?

Obs. The Grievance of the Commission of the Peace was laid before Her Majesty, by way of Address from our Noble Patriots, the Peers, the last Sessions, and there let us leave that Affair.

But, Honest *Country-man*, it is in vain for us to Conquer Abroad, if the Nations Enemies are Formidable at Home. The *Nonjurors* and *Jacobites* have, ever since Her Majesties Accession to the Throne, employ'd their Pens against Her Majesties Right, and in Defence of the Pretender. I don't tell you whose Business it was to Prosecute them; but all the World knows they have Wrote with Impunity, while others, who have Answer'd their Books, and have Wrote in Defence of Her Majesties just Right, have suffer'd by Informations and Indictment.

Nay, when their Writings have become so Notorious, that the whole Nation has Blush'd at their Impudence, and seem'd to dread the Effects of such Licentious Scribblings; when the Grand Jury of the City of *London*, in Detestation of such vile Practices, has Presented one of their Libels, namely, *Heraclitus*, yet no Body has been found to Prosecute. As if Her Majesty kept no Person employ'd for that purpose, or that Person had no Respect for the General Resentment of so great and rich a Body, as that of the Honourable City of *London*, which Pays so great a part of the Taxes, and has its Purse always open for the Support of the Government.

The Correspondence the Enemies of the Government have had with *France*, during this War, is hardly to be Credited, nor the vast Numbers come from *France*. What Discouragements the Honest People of *England* have met with in Taking and Apprehending Persons, as coming from *France*, is worthy of a Retrospection; but such has the Correspondence been, that a Trade has been carried on, and all manner of Ammunition and Provision has been sent to the Enemies to Victual and Equip their Fleet. Upwards of 20 Sail of Ships has been Employ'd in that Service, and our Cruizers and Frigots have been so unluckily Posted, that none of them have been taken.

But at length that Mystery of Iniquity is discover'd, and some of the Ships and Persons are taken, and that Affair is in the Hands of a Minister, by whose Prudent Conduct we hope to have it Improv'd for the Interest of Her Majesty, and the Safety of the Realm; tho' the Discoverers are the Objects of the Hatred of all the *Jacobites* about Town, and the thing it self is Banter'd, not only in their Discourse, but in their Publick Prints.

By the Face of the *Jacobite* Cause we have a long Time discerned that they have had some great thing in view; they have seem'd ready for some bold Push, and God knows what they might have done, had not God bless'd Her Majesties Arms, this Summer, with such Signal Successes. 'Tis this has damp'd their Spirits, and has been the *Remora* to their Designs.

It is worthy Observation, the Behaviour of this Party towards the Duke of *Marlborough*; esteem that Party had for him before this paign? Nay, insomuch, that in Publick Dis they have represented Him as their own, a have done his Lady Dutches, which lessen'd both in the esteem of many honest People. now, since this great and signal Victory, are become the Subjects of their Railery, an Grace is Curs'd by *Bell*, *Book* and *Candle*, ever they take the Liberty of Speaking out.

Country-m. I am glad of that with all Heart. This Scandalous Usage of his Grace Provoke him to Kill Forty or Fifty Thou more of their Brother Rogues the next Summ

Obs. 'Tis true, the Duke of *Marlborough* done much for *England* this Campaign; but vidence seems to have mark'd him out work in the Winter. The only way for great Man to Consumate his Glory, is to de the Enemies of our Queen and Country at Ho to trample to Death those *Court Ear-Wigs*, misrepresent the best of Men to the bes Queens. His Grace may Fight and Con Abroad, and not compleat the Happiness of Country, if such large Squadrons and Battali of our Enemies are Quartered in our Count and wait only for Sound of Trumpet, and B of Drum, for a convenient Opportunity of sho ing themselves in their proper Colours.

And this is the Business of every *Jacobite*, *pist*, and *Nonjuror* in *England*; they daily Ins the Government by Pestilent Libels, which always the Fore-runners of *Rebellion*, and the ry Ground-Walk of *Plots* and *Conspiracies*; th magnifie, in all Companies, the Successes of t Common Enemy, and lessen those of Her Ma sty and Her Allies; they hate every Man that for the present Government and the Protestan Succession; and if any one appears Vigorous i the Defence of either, they presently Load hi with Libels, and Represent him to the World an Enemy to the *Church* and *Monarchy*; an while these Men are Encouraged, can *England* b safe?

Country-m. From such Men Good Lord del ver the Queen and People of *England!* *Amen.*

Advertisements.

WAsse's Elixir for the Gout and Rheumatism; and Ex cellent for the Cholick, Stone, Gravel, and Ulcers the Bladder and Kidneys; and is a sure Remedy for the Dry Gripes in the West-Indies. Price Three Shillings the Half Pint with Printed Directions. It is Sold at the Authors own House *Church Alley* in *Clements-Lane*, and by Mr. Clark, Bookseller in Birchin-Lane. Mrs. *Garraway* at the South End of the Royal *Exchange*, in *Cornhill*. Mr. James Atkinson, Mathematical Instrument-maker, near Cherry Garden-stairs, Rotherhith. Mr. Henry Hatton, at Blackwell-Hall Coffee-House in Basing-Hall-street Mr. John Rogers, Stationer, near the Tower, in St. Katherines At Brightman's Coffee-House near Wapping Old Stairs. At Lamb's Coffee-House against Devonshire-Square without Bishopsgate. At Nando's Coffee-House near Temple-Bar, in Fleet-street. At North's Coffee-House in King-street, near Guild-Hall. Mr. William Church, in Kings Head-Court, against Hatton-Garden, Holbourn. Mr. George Flower, Mathematical Instrument Maker, near Cock-Hill. Mr. John Thornton, at the Sign of the England, Scotland, and Ireland, in the Minories. Mr. Richard Mount, Stationer, on Tower-Hill. Mr. Joseph Tohmes, near the White-Horse in the Burrough, in Southwark. Mr. Baker, Bookseller, at Mercers Chappel, Cheapside. At Jones's Coffee-House in Finch-Lane, near Cornhil Mrs. Bond, next Door to Man's Coffee-House near White-Hall. Mrs. Elizabeth Sansam, at the Golden-Ball, against Nightingal-Lane, East-Smithfield; and by J. How, at the seven stars in Talbot-Court in Grace-church-street.

THe London-Spy Compleat. In Eighteen Parts. The Second Edition, with large Additions. Price 5 s.

Sold by *J. How*, at the *Seven Stars*, in *Talbot-Court* in *Grace-Church-street*.

London, Printed and Sold by *J. How*, at the *Seven-Stars*, in *Talbot-Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*, 170